



# **Congressman Bill Thomas**

## **22nd District, California**

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## **Thomas Announces Federal Funding for Baker Street Redevelopment**

Congressman Bill Thomas today announced that the City of Bakersfield will receive \$280,000 in federal funds for its ongoing redevelopment of Baker Street. The funds were included at Thomas' request in the conference report, or final version, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005. The funds will support infrastructure and public improvements that are necessary to further economic development in the area. Specifically, the City will "streetscape" four blocks; this will involve the renovation of sidewalks, streets and crosswalks and the installation of historic street lamps, benches, trash bins, historic signs, and landscaping.

"Economic revitalization of the Baker Street area will help attract businesses to redevelop an area of Bakersfield that was once its most thriving but has now become one of its most impoverished," said Thomas.

The funding Thomas announced today is part of the City's Baker Street Mixed-Use Redevelopment Project, which involves the construction of 130 affordable housing units and 30,000 square feet of commercial space, a public plaza, and some office space.

"The project has strong support of local governments and businesses who have contributed their own funds to it, but federal funding is necessary to continue to move the project forward. I was happy to help secure these funds," added Thomas.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 344-51. It will now be sent to the Senate for consideration, and if approved, to President Bush for his signature.

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For additional information you may contact Donna Kunz, the Economic Development Director for the City of Bakersfield at (661) 852-7505.

[Billthomas.house.gov](http://Billthomas.house.gov)